

**CATHOLIC CHURCH MISSION MONGOLIA
TECHNICAL & VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER ULAANBAATAR
USAID GRANT No. 492-G-00-00-00020-00
FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Grant activities

At the time the USAID grant with the Catholic Church Mission in Mongolia (CCMM) was signed (May 25, 2000), CCMM had already made a contract with the Engineering Company N & C for the construction of the Technical and Vocational Center in Ulaanbaatar and construction work had started. The grant budget foresaw for the equipment and furniture of the school and for some construction fixtures (water supply, sewage, heating system/station, electrical installation, generator set, bathroom fixtures and equipment, ventilation, doors and windows).

From May to December 2000, expenses made for the grant were solely for the construction fixtures, as the construction was still ongoing. (See enclosed financial report).

By the end of 2000 the construction of the Training Center was completed. With the arrival of Fr. Carlo Villegas, SDB, in February 2001, the future Director of the Training Center, the planning for procuring the classroom, office and workshop equipment could begin. The first step in the planning was a survey on the existing industries in Mongolia, the machinery and equipment used, so as to have a realistic view on the needs for training of young people, future employees of these industries. Contact was taken with the management of these industries and a meeting between them and Fr. Carlo was arranged.

With the help of this survey and meeting, Fr. Carlo came up with a detailed list of equipment and furniture needed for the Technical Training Center.

After the approval of this procurement list, several agencies and companies were contacted for price quotes. Computer equipment and furniture was found locally available with reasonable prices, so it was decided to buy these locally. For the workshop equipment, contact was made with the German Mercedes-Benz dealer in Mongolia, Mongolian Star Melchers, Co. They helped CCMM to procure all workshop equipment (mostly for the automotive shop) and tools from companies in Germany.

Only after this whole process was finished (June 2001) could purchases be made. So, the grant was extended till the end of October 2001.

Purchases made from June to December 2001 were for classroom and office furniture, computers and other equipment and for a part of the workshop equipment. Through Mongolian Star Melchers, a generator was bought for the school.

In October 2001, the Vocational Training Center, now officially called “Don Bosco Technical Skills Center”, was formally opened in the presence of Mr. Addleton, USAID Mission Director in Mongolia and Mr. William Reynolds, USAID Grant Officer.

With the space available, it was decided to start off with a one-year course in carpentry and sewing. Alongside these practical courses, the students also got computer lessons, English classes and values-education. About 40 students enrolled for the first year, but the more or less constant number of students attending classes was 28.

In the meantime, the deadline of the grant was waived once more, to be able to buy additional equipment with the remaining amount of the grant. Expenses in 2002 were mainly for workshop equipment, heating chimneys (part of the construction fixtures) and some other classroom and office equipment needed.

The final amount of the grant was released in August 2002 and by the end of September 2002, grant activities were finished.

Initial results attained by the project

By the 30th of May, the first group of students finished their in-school training. They had to pass comprehensive practical test that required them to perform different skill levels. Based on their performance, their level of competency was based. They then proceeded to an out-of-school training, or on the job training in some Mongolian companies. They were required to have 340 hours of work training. It was not hard to find companies to absorb them for this training.

During the last two weeks of May 2002 entrance exams for school-leavers (drop-outs) were scheduled. Then a second schedule for entrance exams followed the second half of June (this for current school leavers who failed in the national and university exam).

60 Students have enrolled for this current school year 2002-2003. The course is extended to two years.

Next to the courses that were already started last year, some new skills are being introduced. One of them is the automotive course. For this, the Salesians are constructing a second building, right next to the existing facilities of the Training Center. The basement of the building will be the automotive shop, with adequate space for this kind of training.

Other possibilities that are being looked into is metal works, hydraulics and drilling (in cooperation with a Canadian company.) It seems that, in Mongolia, there is a need for people who can do drilling. The company would provide the school with the equipment, and we would be the ones to train the young people.

Concept of the Project

Don Bosco Technical Skills Center was conceived to take care of the underprivileged youth of the Mongolian society who have missed the chance of a regular formal education. It caters to both boys and girls from the age of 16 till 23 years old. The Center provides a two year technical training course. The three major courses are Woodworking, Industrial Sewing and Automechanics. English Communication Skills, Computer Literacy and typing skills both in Mongolian and English are obligatory for all students. Mathematics and Mongolian Language Subjects are provided to students who were not able to complete a grade 8 and 10 secondary education. Above all, the students are obliged to receive Values Education courses to equip them for the much required discipline that really prepares them for life. At graduation the student is expected to have more opportunities for employment and responsible family life.

Envisioning a Real-Time Simulation of the Industry's Technological Demands. The Center has acquired state-of-the art equipment in keeping with the demands and projections of the industry and society through foreign funding from USAID. Educational space by way of infrastructures have been provided by the Catholic Mission and are further being developed by the Salesians of Don Bosco. Construction is now going on for a large automotive shop. A Recreational Facility and more classrooms are to be completed by the following year. Collaboration with companies that lack local skilled workers in heavy-equipment machinery as well as drilling technicians are in the planning stage. These companies are most willing to provide training facilities for their future local "work force."

Envisioning a Employment-related Training System. The concept of the training center envisions a collaborative effort on the part of the educative center, the industry and the government to prepare Mongolian youths for a productive and responsible life. Collaboration with the industry is made all the more regular through the on-the-job training of the students and round table discussions with company directors. In this collaboration, the training center not only upgrades its curriculum standards and training facilities to meet employment needs but enables the industry and society to prepare well skilled local workforce personnel. Insistence is being stressed for a Competency Based Training which prepares exactly what the industry requires and not waste training time and resources for unrelated skills.

Envisioning a Productive Training System. The training regimen of the center adopts a 70% stress on skills training and 30% theory. Students hone their skills with productive projects that help the school train the students to Quality and Speed production work. The training in the system of efficiency and to a great extent to inculcate the idea of self-sufficiency or self-sustainability has been received favorably by the training staff. The meager income helps in purchasing the much depleted consumable training materials that undoubtedly are not met

by the near-to-nothing tuition fees the students can pay. Currently the day to day running of the school is shouldered by foreign funding and scholarships.

We are an Educative Community animated by the spirit of St. John Bosco. We provide quality education with technological orientation.

We serve the Mongolian youth especially from the poorest and underprivileged working class.

Vision

We are:

- A learning community that makes use of relevant & modern technology, open to new paradigms and creative expressions.
- A training source for skilled and responsible members of the family, industry and society.
- A Center to prepare competent young people for technology-related professions and careers.

Core values

- ◆ DBTSC believes in the Educative Methodology of St. John Bosco
- ◆ DBTSC believes in leadership by example
- ◆ DBTSC believes in Growth
- ◆ DBTSC believes in Innovation and Quality

Philosophy of education

The Don Bosco Technical Skills Center believes that:

1. Education is a major key for the liberation and development of a person to attain a life of quality and a transformed society.
2. Education is an on-going process by which one seeks the fullness of life and harmony with his fellowmen and its ultimate goal of ennobling the human spirit.
3. Education draws out the best of man's giftedness, developing him as a total person.
4. Education requires the Educative Community, which creates a family atmosphere conducive to the growth of educators and students.

December 30, 2002

Msgr. Wens S. Padilla, CICM
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